

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A shelf assembly for mounting in a vehicle having a generally flat rearwardly extending bed defined by a floor and pair of upwardly extending side walls, said shelf assembly comprising:
 - a. a frame comprising,
 - i) a plurality of U-shaped members, each said member having a base and two spaced apart arms extending perpendicular to said base,
 - ii) a plurality of telescoping members associated with said arms,
 - iii) means for removably locking each arm of each said U-shaped member, whereby to adjustably fix said spaced apart bases; and,
 - b. a first and second generally planar panel members positioned on said frame for receiving items to be transported thereon, said panel members associated with said frame to allow movement between said panel members.
2. (Presently amended) The shelf assembly of Claim 1, further comprising a raised lip extending at least a portion around the periphery of said ~~frame~~panel.

3. (Presently amended) ~~The shelf assembly of Claim 2,~~ A shelf assembly for mounting in a vehicle having a generally flat rearwardly extending bed defined by a floor and pair of upwardly extending side walls, said shelf assembly comprising:

a. a frame comprising,

i) a plurality of U-shaped members, each said member having a base and two spaced apart arms extending perpendicular to said base,

ii) a plurality of telescoping members associated with said arms,

iii) means for removably locking each arm of each said U-shaped member, whereby to adjustably fix said spaced apart bases; and,

b. a first and second generally planar panel members positioned on said frame for receiving items to be transported thereon, said panel members associated with said frame to allow movement between said panel members; and,

c. a raised lip extending at least a portion around the periphery of said first and second panel members, wherein said lip contains a plurality of spaced holes spaced around said lip.

4. (Presently amended) The shelf assembly of Claim 1, further comprising a support means associated with said frame, wherein said support means comprises at least one downwardly depending leg associated with said shelf assembly.

5. (Presently amended) ~~The shelf assembly of Claim 1,~~ A shelf assembly for mounting in a vehicle having a generally flat rearwardly extending bed defined by a floor and pair of upwardly extending side walls, said shelf assembly comprising:

a. a frame comprising,

i) a plurality of U-shaped members, each said member having a base and two spaced apart arms extending perpendicular to said base,

ii) a plurality of telescoping members associated with said arms,

iii) means for removably locking each arm of each said U-shaped member, whereby to adjustably fix said spaced apart bases; and,

b. a first and second generally planar panel members positioned on said frame for receiving items to be transported thereon, said panel members associated with said frame to allow movement between said panel members;

5.c. a support means associated with said frame, wherein said support means can pivot from a downwardly vertical position to a generally horizontal position.

6. (Original) The shelf assembly of Claim 4, wherein said support means further comprises a pin and a hinge, said hinge having a first plate associated with said support means and a second plate associated with said panel member, whereby said pin pivotably connects said first and second plates.

7. (Original) The shelf assembly of Claim 5, further comprising a means for removably retaining said support means in a horizontal position.
8. (Original) The shelf assembly of Claim 6, wherein said retaining means comprises a clip sized to removably hold a portion of said support member.
9. (Presently amended) The shelf assembly of Claim 1, further comprising a support member associated with said frame, wherein said support member further comprises a bracket for removably maintaining said support ~~means-member~~ in a vertical position with respect to said panels.
10. (Presently amended) The shelf assembly of Claim 3, further comprising a support means associated with said frame, wherein said support means comprises at least one telescoping leg associated with said frame.
11. (Original) The shelf assembly of Claim 10, further comprising a support means associated with said frame, wherein said telescoping leg comprises at least two telescoping segments.
12. (Original) The shelf assembly of Claim 11, further comprising a thumbscrew receivable within a hole in a telescoping segment wherein said telescoping segments are selectively maintained in a fixed relationship when said thumbscrew is advanced in said hole and contacts another telescoping segment.
13. (Original) The shelf assembly of Claim 1, wherein said locking means comprises a plurality of thumbscrews which are removably received within mating apertures in said frame.

14. (Original) The shelf assembly of Claim 13, further comprising a nut attached to said frame axially aligned with said aperture to provide additional strength for said thumbscrew.

15. (Original) The shelf assembly of Claim 1, further comprising a cushion associated with at least a portion of each said U-shaped member.

16. (Presently amended) The shelf assembly of Claim 1, further comprising a plurality of ~~means-tethers~~ for connecting said shelf assembly to a vehicle to prevent substantial undesired movement when said shelf assembly is mounted in said vehicle.

17. (Presently amended) ~~The shelf assembly of Claim 12A~~ shelf assembly for mounting in a vehicle having a generally flat rearwardly extending bed defined by a floor and pair of upwardly extending side walls, said shelf assembly comprising:

a. a frame comprising,

i) a plurality of U-shaped members, each said member having a base and two spaced apart arms extending perpendicular to said base,

ii) a plurality of telescoping members associated with said arms,

iii) means for removably locking each arm of each said U-shaped member, whereby to adjustably fix said spaced apart bases;

b. a first and second generally planar panel members positioned on said frame for receiving items to be transported thereon, said panel members associated with said frame to allow movement between said panel members; and,

c. a plurality of tethers for connecting said shelf assembly to a vehicle to prevent substantial undesired movement when said shelf assembly is mounted in said vehicle;
~~wherein said plurality of connecting means comprises a plurality of tethers attached to said frame.~~

18. (Original) A shelf assembly for mounting in a vehicle having a generally flat rearwardly extending bed defined by a floor and pair of upwardly extending side walls, said shelf assembly comprising:

- a. a frame comprising,
 - i) a plurality of U-shaped members, each said member having a base and two spaced apart arms extending perpendicular to said base,
 - ii) a plurality of telescoping members associated with said arms,
 - iii) means for removably locking each arm of each said U-shaped member, whereby to adjustably fix said spaced apart bases,
 - iv) a raised lip extending at least a portion around the periphery of said frame;
- b. a first and second generally planar panel members positioned on said frame for receiving items to be transported thereon, said panel members associated with said frame to allow movement between said panel members;
- c. at least one leg depending downward from said shelf assembly.

19. (New) The shelf assembly of Claim 17, wherein said shelf assembly is connected to said tether by an elastic cord.

20. (New) The shelf assembly of Claim 1, wherein said first and second panels can be movably adjusted to be at least partially overlapping each other.